

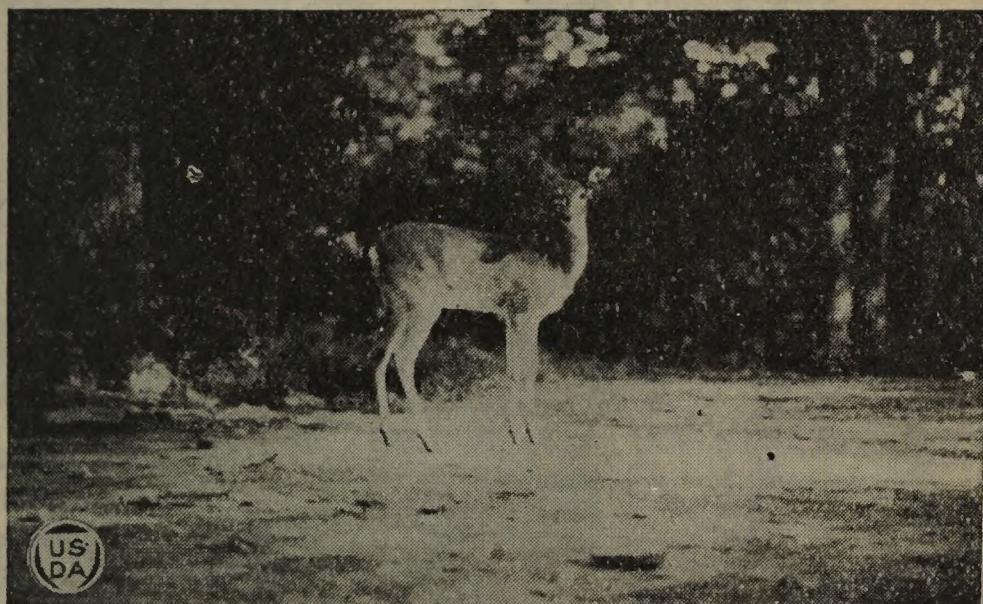
Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

6 A.R.

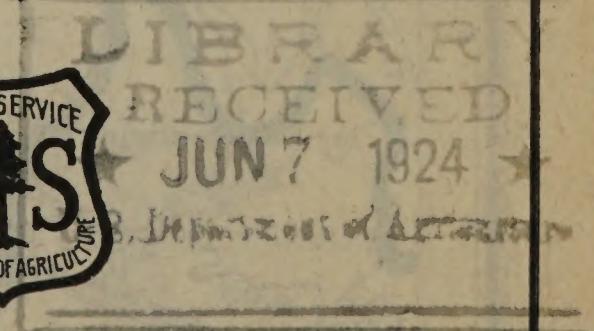
The PISGAH National Forest AND Game Preserve

Western North Carolina



SAFE IN THE GAME REFUGE

This folder contains a map of central portions of the Forest and information for visitors and tourists



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE

The National Forest as a Public Property

The Federal Government, through the process of land purchase from private owners, is building up a great chain of national forests in the Southern Appalachians. These national forests have as their primary purposes the protection of the forested watersheds of many important navigable rivers of the East and South and the production of at least a nucleus of our future hardwood-timber supply. Among their secondary purposes are the maintenance and perpetuation of the water powers upon which the expanding industries of this region must depend and the protection of important sources of domestic water supply against all forms of pollution.

As the process of purchase goes forward, these national forests are serving more and more as demonstrations of applied forestry. Much of the land acquired in this region for national-forest purposes was intensively logged over in earlier years and a great deal of it repeatedly burned. As a result, many years must elapse before these forest lands are once more restored to their maximum productiveness. The process is now, however, well under way and gaining impetus with each succeeding year as the result of adequate protection and constructive management. It will thus be seen that these Appalachian national forests are great public properties of steadily increasing value and economic importance.

The keynote of the administration of these national forests by the Forest Service is that the value of their forest resources should be not only perpetuated but increased through development, and that the forests should be so managed as to render the maximum service to the people of the surrounding regions.

Pisgah National Forest is one of the most valuable, most important, and most interesting of the entire Appalachian group. Located in the attractive mountain regions of western North Carolina, the gross area within the proclaimed national-forest boundary is well over a million acres. Within this area approximately 300,000 acres have been finally acquired by the Federal Government. The forest protects the important watersheds of the French Broad and Catawba Rivers; it embraces unusual possibilities for water-power development; it guards the purity of the municipal water supply of many surrounding towns; and it contains heavy

stands of valuable hardwood timber. It was within this forest, upon the lands of the late George W. Vanderbilt, that the first American attempts to practice scientific forestry were made. Nearly one-third of the forest has been made a national game preserve, with a view to restoring, in a measure at least, the wild-life resource of this mountain region.

Because of close contact with other forms of Federal Government reservations perhaps there has existed among the people of the East and South the impression that these Appalachian national forests are primarily reservations for growing timber and that public use or enjoyment of them is seriously restricted. Exactly the contrary is true. Within



F-15480-A

The hardwoods of our Appalachian National Forests will be an important factor in our future hardwood timber supply.

the national forests every legitimate form of public use consistent with the protection and perpetuation of the timbered watersheds, water, and other forest resources is encouraged and stimulated by Forest Service policies. The ripe timber within the forest is for sale under contracts which permit profitable operations and yet insure successive timber crops. The ranges are open for the grazing of domestic stock, and the water-power possibilities are open to development under favorable conditions. A steadily increasing mileage of Government-built roads and trails is making the forests and their varied resources more and more accessible to the equally varied forms of public use.

Recreation in the Forest

The use of Pisgah National Forest as a public playground and recreation center is growing apace. Motors and good roads are combining to place this delightful mountain section within reach of densely populated sections, and there is an eager public response to the call of the hills. Keenly aware of the great need and thoroughly alive to the demand, the Forest Service is giving all possible consideration to this growing recreational use of the forest in its management and development programs.

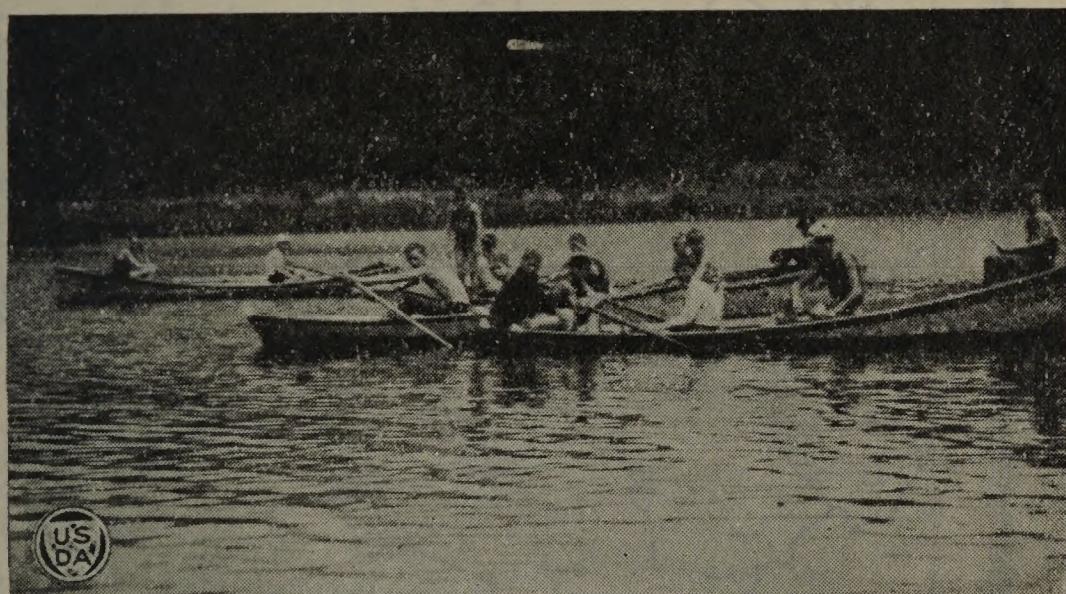
One hundred miles of good earth roads and 400 miles of graded trails lead into the heart of the forest by crag and pinnacle, along high divides, across rushing creek and singing river, and through dark timbered coves and pleasant valleys. Except in two or three special cases these roads and trails are open to the public at all times. Motoring, hiking, mountain climbing, horseback riding, berry picking, botanizing, and nature study are simple kinds of outdoor pleasure within the possibilities of every man's means. Camping is permitted anywhere, and one may choose the spot most appealing. Camp grounds and picnic grounds are being developed by the Forest Service and by communities for free public use. These are provided with pure water, open-air fireplaces, ovens, rubbish baskets and pits, parking places, and sanitary conveniences. Dead and down timber may be freely used for fuel.

Fishing in all the streams and hunting in all the forest, except within the boundaries of the game preserve, are permitted without further restriction than the State or county laws and ordinances. No hunting is allowed in the game preserve, and fishing is confined to the summer open season under Forest Service regulations. Most of the mountain streams within the forest are annually stocked with trout. Camera hunting is an always inviting outdoor sport, and nowhere in the Appalachian system are there more excellent opportunities to enjoy this form of pleasure than here.

Camping is the most popular recreational use of the forest. The Y. M. C. A. and the Y. W. C. A., Boy Scouts, and Camp Fire Girls, and similar semicivic institutions have availed themselves of sites for summer camps and made going concerns out of them by developing lakes and the sports which may be had only on the water. Such camps are growing in popularity. The southern branch of the Appalachian Mountain Club has a hut in the Pink Beds which is the summer mecca for all of its members. Many opportunities exist for

cooperation of municipalities in the development of camps for general public use, and it is confidently expected that within the reasonably near future the aggressive cities adjacent to the Forest will avail themselves of these opportunities. Thousands of people who love to use the accessible areas for a day's outing live or sojourn temporarily within one or two hours' ride of some part of Pisgah Forest. Along every road and trail there are numberless sites to accommodate not only these people but the additional thousands who will seek them in the future.

Hiking is another form of use increasing annually in popularity. The forest offers trails of easy grade suitable for every able-bodied person. Everybody, young and old, should make at least one pilgrimage to Mount Pisgah and to Mount Mitchell just to keep fresh the memory of the beauty of earth and sky and green forest.



At Bent Creek Lake Boys' Camp

Nowadays, with motors crowding horses from the roadways, the devotees of horseback riding turn naturally to the trails within the forest where the ride may be enjoyed without disturbance from the raucous honk of the fleeting motor. The average horseback rider can not exhaust the possibilities for this sport on any division of the forest in less than a week. Try it and see.

Except within the game preserve, fishing is permitted in all of the streams of the forest in accordance with the laws of the county or State. Within the preserve, under Forest Service regulations, fishing is permitted only within a prescribed open season, usually from May 1 to August 31. A fee of \$1 per day is charged for each permit issued. No

permittee is allowed to take more than 15 fish in any one day or allowed more than 10 days' fishing in any one season. Annually the streams within the preserve are stocked with brook and rainbow trout. The restriction of fishing to the summer open season, and its regulation by the Forest Service, have worked a very positive benefit. Since the preserve was established hundreds of people who never before knew the lure of the rod and fly have found new means of enjoyment, and every angler is assured a fair chance for success.

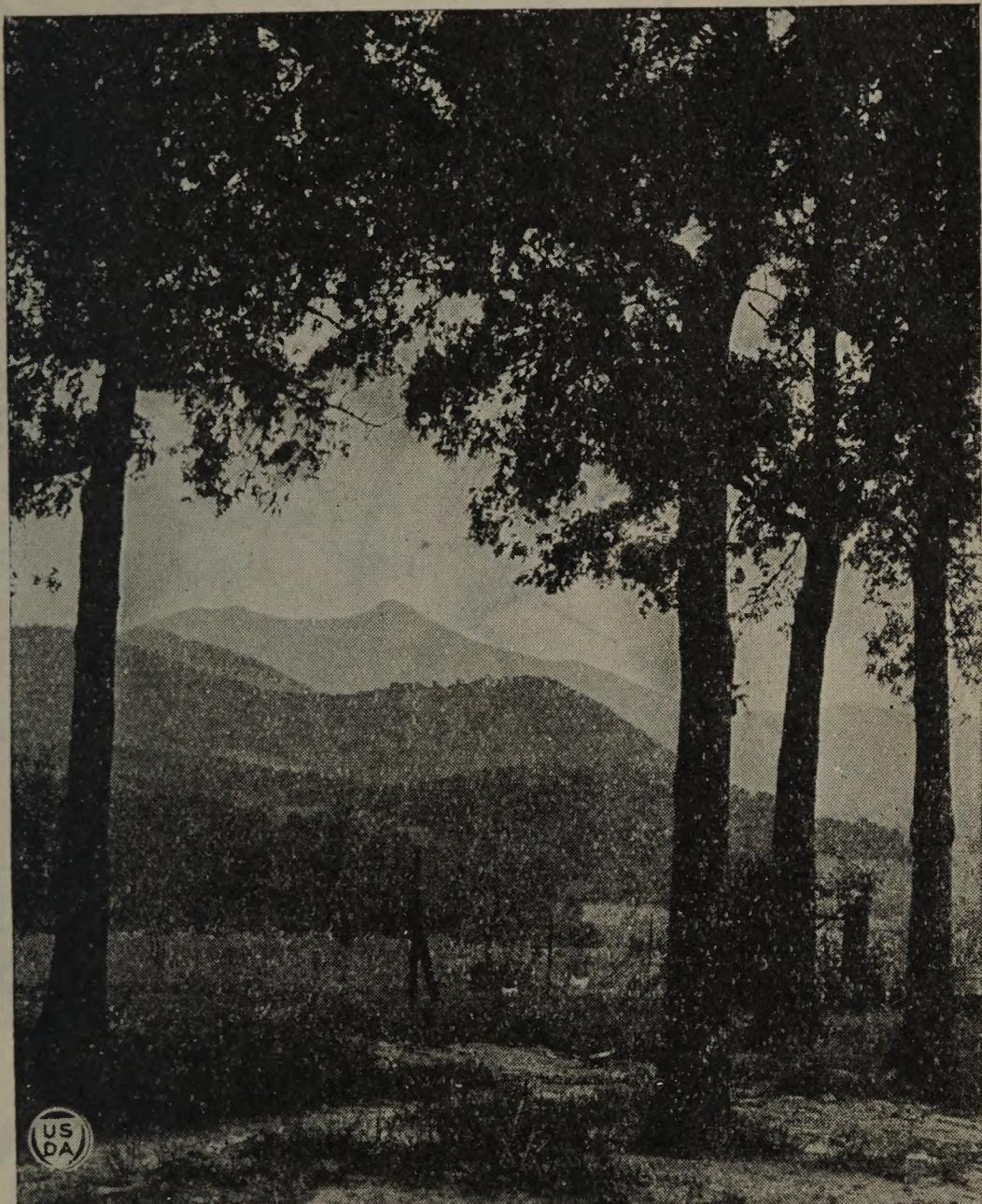
Hunting is not allowed inside of the game preserve at any time of the year. There is some good deer hunting within those sections outside of the preserve, but it is a regrettable fact that the game of this region was very seriously depleted in the decades preceding the establishment of the national forest, and both time and a constructive program of game protection and propagation are essential to the restoration of the wild-life resource.

Berry picking throughout the season affords many people a profitable occupation. Blackberries, red raspberries, huckleberries, and blueberries grow wild and during favorable years in great abundance. Galax picking is a form of public use found only within the southern Appalachian forests. Every fall and winter several millions of these glossy green and bronze leaves are gathered on the Mount Mitchell and Boone divisions of Pisgah National Forest and shipped to market. The native mountaineers engage actively in galax picking, selling their harvest to the country merchant, who in turn passes it on to the consuming centers. No charge is made for this use, because the leaves when properly picked renew themselves each year and also because the presence of the galax pickers in the woods during the fall and spring seasons of fire hazard constitutes a material assistance to the local forest officers in their task of fire protection. Chestnut hunting is the delight of many in the fall. It is a fine outing for anyone who likes to get out in the open when the leaves are turning and the frost has felled both leaves and fruit.

"Picture ahead" is a slogan peculiarly applicable to the national forests. At almost every turn of the road or trail scenes of beauty and interest may be recorded on the film, making the summer pleasures live for the eye as well as for the mind. These are a few of the things one may do in the public forest. They mean simple outings of an inexpensive character.

You are cordially welcome in the Pisgah National Forest to enjoy its beauty, to receive its inspirations, to learn the lessons it so pleasantly teaches.

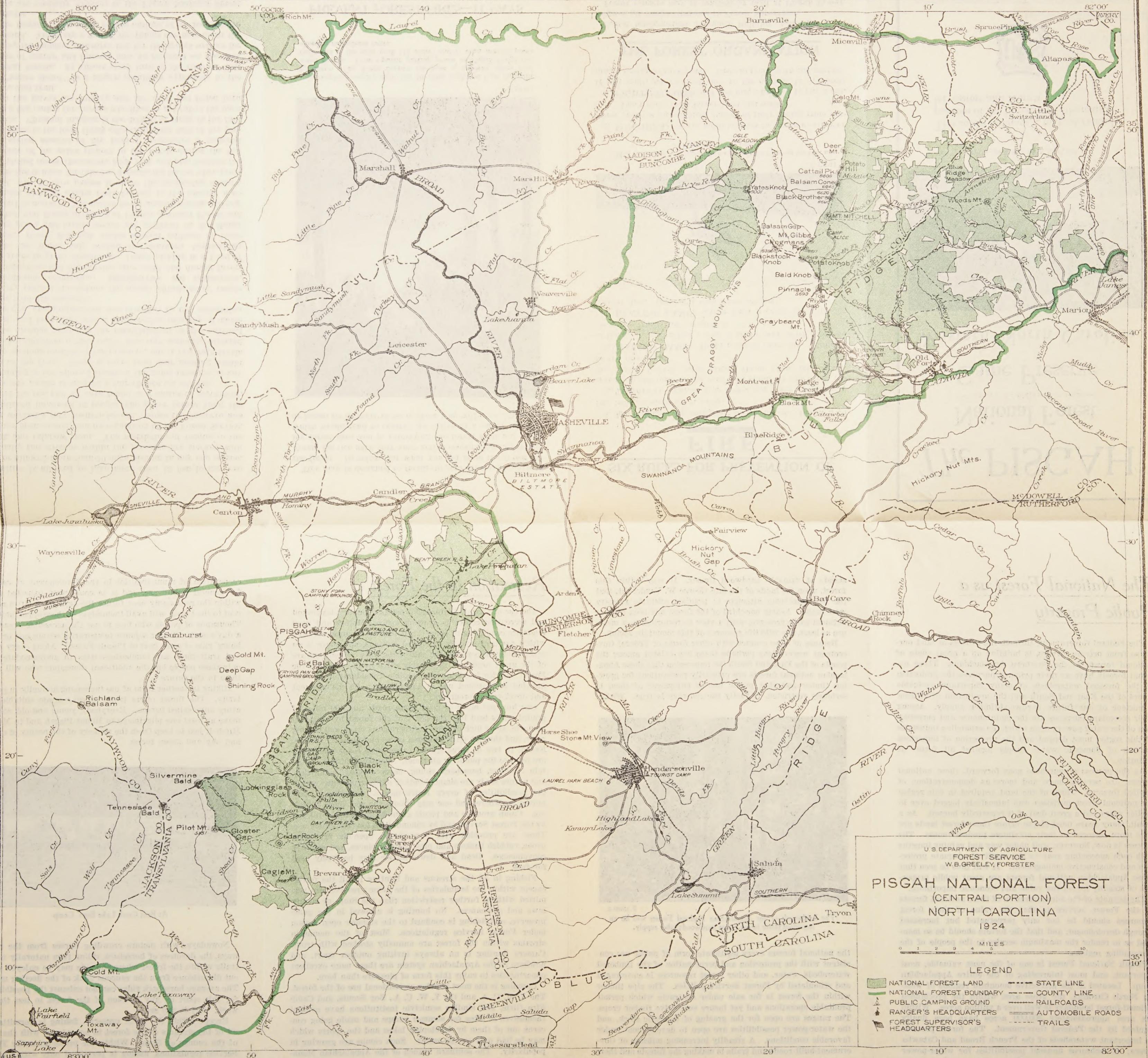
This map is designed to facilitate your travels throughout the forest. In return for what you get from the forest the Forest Service asks only your active cooperation in preventing forest fires and in protecting the forest from any abuse which would tend to destroy its values as a public property or lessen its attractiveness to those who will come after you.



F-176411

A delightful one-day return trip 26 miles southwest from Asheville by motor. The Forest Service maintains a one-way motor road across Pisgah. From a public parking ground on Pisgah Ridge foot trails lead to the main peak ($1\frac{1}{4}$ miles) and to other near-by points affording magnificent views.

PREVENT FOREST FIRES—IT PAYS



SIX RULES FOR PREVENTION OF

FIRE

1. **MATCHES.**—Be sure your match is out. Break it in two before you throw it away.
2. **TOBACCO.**—Throw pipe ashes and cigar or cigarette stumps in the dust of the road and stamp or pinch out the fire before leaving them. Don't throw them into brush, leaves, or needles.
3. **MAKING CAMP.**—Build a small camp fire. Build it in the open, not against a tree or log or near brush. Scrape away the trash from around it.
4. **LEAVING CAMP.**—Never leave a camp fire, even for a short time. Quench it with water or earth.



F-176511

"Man is careless." Hence this fire patrolman covering his beat in Pisgah National Forest

5. **BONFIRES.**—Never build bonfires in windy weather or where there is the slightest danger of their escape from control. Don't make them larger than you need.
6. **FIGHTING FIRES.**—If you find a fire, try to put it out. If you can't, get word at once to the nearest U. S. Forest ranger or State fire warden. Keep in touch with the rangers.

THE FOREST ORGANIZATION

Forest headquarters, Drhumor Building, Asheville, N. C.
Address all communications to Forest Supervisor.

Forest rangers may be reached by mail at Pisgah Forest, Biltmore, Old Fort, Garden City, Edgemont, and Hot Springs, N. C., or in person at their field stations as shown on the map.